a licence holder can appoint another per son as his agent for arranging the im ports permitted by the licence.The functions of such holders of letter of authority are limited to placing orders, opening letters of credit, making remit tance of payment for importing the goods, arranging movement and clearing the same through the customs having regard to Sec. 147 of the Customs Act, 1962 on behalf of the licences. However, sale of import licences for dry fruits is not allowed and any violation in this regard is dealt with in accordance with the pro visions contained in Imports & Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and Imports (Control) Order 1955.

Issue of Import-Export Pass Books

110. SHRI RAINI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the criterion adopted by Government is issuing the Import-Export Pass Book in 1986; and

(b) what was the number of parties which were issued such pass books along with the value of the same periodmse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) During the year 1986, the Import-Export Pass Book Scheme was applicable only to registered manufacturer-exporters who have been in production and exporting regularly for a period of three financial years.

(b) The numbered value of Pass Book licence issued is as under:

Period	No. of licences	Value (in crores of rupees)
1986-87 .	101	24.90
1-4-87 to 30-9-87 (Six months)	78	26.91

Reduction of excise duty on nylon fabrics

111. SHRI RAJNC RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the excise duty on nylon fabrics; if so, the extent thereof and the reasons there-for;

(b) what criteria have been adopted in taking this decision; and

(c) what gain has accrued to Government by the reduction of excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Government have reduced the excise duty on cheaper varieties of nylon fabrics of weight nrt ex ceeding 35 grams per square metre from Rs. 1.25 to 75 paise, per square metre with effect from the 19th January, 1988. This duty edruction was made taking into account the representations received from the industry' and also taking note of the fact that the duty incidence on cheaper varieties of nylon fabrics had gone up under the new excise duty structure on man-made fabrics introduced with effect from the 25th November, 1987. This is only a modification of the duty structure announced on the 25th November, 1987 and therefore the question of any gain accruing to the Government does not arise.

News item captioned 'U.S. Co. damped toxic wastes in India'

112. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item that appeared in Business Standard dated 14th January, 1988 under the caption 'US Co. dumped toxic wastes in India'; if so, what are the details thereof; and